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27 July 1979

Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 100



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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

CONFERENCE ON BALTIC SEA ENDS IN HELSINKI

Moscow TASS in English 2040 GMT 25 May 79 LD

[An Example of Fruitful Cooperation"--TASS headline]

[Text] Helsinki, May 25, TASS--Today, the international conference of representatives of cities situated in the Baltic Sea area ended its deliberations here in the Palace of Finland. The conference, whose motto was "The Baltic Sea--Our Common Concern" was convened at the initiative of the International Union of Municipalities, the World Federation of Twinned Cities and the Union of Cities of Finland. It was held under the patronage of Urho Kaleva Kekkonen, president of the Finnish Republic.

Taking part in the conference were about 500 representatives of the Baltic Sea countries--the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden and Finland.

Presented and discussed at the plenaries and the commissions of the conference were over 40 reports and speeches. They dealt with problems of environmental protection in the Baltic Sea area, technologies of pollution control, exchange of information and others.

The forum's participants adopted a resolution noting that the international conference is called upon to contribute to a further consolidation and development of cooperation, goodneighbourly relations, better understanding between cities, municipalities and peoples of the Baltic Sea countries.

The resolution stresses that a steady development of international cooperation in the field of environmental protection within the spirit of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe represents a tangible contribution to the struggle for peace and friendship.

CSO: 5200

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

JAPAN SUSPENDS TALKS WITH USSR OVER SEA KELP FISHING

Tokyo KYODO in English 0343 GMT 1 Jun 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, June 1, KYODO--Japan has suspended talks with the Soviet Union on Japanese gathering of sea tangle ("Kombu," an edible kelp) near Kaigara Island in the Northern Pacific under way in Moscow because of the Soviet hard line on fishing licenses, the Fishery Agency said Friday.

The agency said the private bargaining body led by Motoharu Kawabata, president of the Hokkaido Fisheries Association, will return home Saturday to provide a cooling-off time to find a way out in the negotiations.

The Soviet Union proposed that Japanese sea tangle gathering boats carry licences issued by the Soviet Fisheries Ministry and that the Soviet Union have jurisdiction over violations of its rules.

Under the previous private agreement on sea tangle, Japanese sea tangle boats were licensed by their local fishery organizations.

The private bargaining body suspended negotiations because it is outside its competence to accept a Soviet proposal which would constitute virtual recognition of the disputed northern territories and their surrounding sea areas as Soviet territory. Thus, no agreement is likely by June 10, when the annual season for gathering sea tangle in the northern Pacific opens.

CSO: 5200

'RENMIN RIBAO' EXAMINES USSR-JAPAN FISHING TALKS

Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese 11 Jun 79 p 6 HK

[Commentary by Dong Min [2639 3046]: "Grim Prospects of Japanese Fishery Operations in North Pacific Waters"]

[Excerpts] Japan and the Soviet Union came to an agreement in late April in their negotiations on catching salmon and trout in north Pacific waters. However, the results of the negotiations have in no way removed the "impact" on the Japanese fishermen. Although Japan was able to keep last year's catch quota through negotiations, Japanese fishermen have found that their fishing period in some waters has been greatly shortened and that they have to pay a "cooperative fishing fee" nearly double that of last year. Japanese newspapers have said: This "negotiation which was settled with money" has "dealt a telling blow" to Japanese fishermen and 'forced Japan's inshore fishing of salmon and trout into a tight corner."

Japan's fishing industry suffered great difficulties after the United States, Canada and the Soviet Union delimited the "200-mile exclusive fishing zone." Japan is mainly engaged in offshore fishing and one-third of its annual catch is obtained within the 200-mile zone of other countries. North Pacific waters are Japan's important traditional fishing grounds and nearly half the raw materials needed by Japan's industry that processes aquatic products comes from the 200-mile zone of the Soviet Union. To maintain its fishing operations in north Pacific waters, Japan has to hold negotiations with the Soviet Union every year.

The Soviet Union announced its "200-mile exclusive fishing zone" in February 1977 and unilaterally took Japan's northern territory as the base line of its 200-mile exclusive waters. In the 3-month Japan-Soviet fishing negotiations which started at the end of February last year, the Soviet Union flatly refused to discuss the territorial question and regarded its unilaterally announced 200-mile zone as a "precondition" for the conclusion of a new fishing agreement. To force Japan into making concessions in the negotiations, the Soviet Union announced that as of 1 April it would expel all Japanese fishing boats from its 200-mile zone. In the end, Japan was compelled to admit Soviet rights to demand "permits" and "fishing fees" and exercise "jurisdiction" in these waters. Moreover, Japan also faced all kinds of restrictions regarding fishing grounds and types of fish.

Claiming it had the right to exercise "jurisdiction" within its 200-mile fishing zone, the Soviet Union arbitrarily inspected, detained and fined Japanese fishing boats operating in these waters. Last year, the Soviet Union fined 82 Japanese fishing boats a total of 235 million yen. In the first 4 months of this year, 23 Japanese fishing boats were fined a total of \$30 million.

Japanese fishermen who make their living catching salmon and trout in north Pacific waters have suffered the heaviest blow from the Soviet Union. Since 1977, they have been forbidden to operate inside the 200-mile Soviet waters. Last year, the Soviet Union further pressed Japan into agreeing to set up a triangular no-fishing zone in the open seas on the pretext of its being a maritime country. It also claimed that as the place of origin, it owned all salmon and trout in this area. Due to Soviet insistence, Japan's 1978 fishing season was shortened by 10 days compared with 1977. In this year's negotiations, the Soviet Union further demanded to extend the no-fishing zone but was rejected by Japan. Nevertheless, the fishing season for Japanese fishing boats operating in waters east of the "triangular zone" was still shortened by half a month compared with last year.

Last year, Japan paid a "cooperative fishing fee" of 1.76 billion yen for the 42,500 tons of salmon and trout set in the catch quota. This year, the catch quota stands unchanged but the "cooperative fishing fee" has been raised to 3.25 billion yen. According to the Japanese paper HOKKAIDO SHIMBUN 54 percent of last year's "cooperative fishing fee" was borne by Japanese fishermen and the rest by the Japanese Government.

Due to the Soviet Union's so-called "fishing cooperation," Japan's traditional fishing grounds in the north Pacific have gradually decreased and the fish catch dwindled. As a result, Japan was forced to cut more than 1,400 fishing boats in the 2 years of 1977 and 1978. The Japanese Government has had to pay more than 120 billion yen as compensation. Among the fishermen themselves, the remaining ship owners have also contributed large sums of money as "friendly compensation" to help out those whose ships were cut. Japanese public opinion has deemed that like "the setting sun in the north Pacific," fishing operations in north Pacific waters are in for a "new era of adversity" and "grim prospects."

CSO: 5200

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

FINLAND AIMS TO REDUCE SOVIET FISHING RIGHTS

Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 0600 GMT 24 May 79 LD

[Excerpts] Finland aims to reduce the Soviet rights to fish for sprat and Baltic herring in the Finnish fishing zone. The agreement concluded 2 years ago on Soviet fishing rights is to be revised in talks to be held in Tallinn at the beginning of next month. The reason is the considerable amount of imports in the Finnish fishing economy and an increase in Finnish fishing. Here is a report by (Jukka Koponen): [Begin recording]

At the present time fishing in the Baltic is strictly regulated. The Baltic fisheries commission, meeting in Warsaw, determines fish quotas for each country of the area annually. At the last meeting, for instance, the situation with regard to the most important fish for Finland, Baltic herring, was considered to be such that catches in the Baltic areas were reduced. But the reduction did not apply to Finland; on the contrary, Finland's quota was somewhat increased. This year it is about 80 million kg. Assistant Head of Department Heikki Pitkanen at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry says that we can only hope that Finland will be equally successful in the future with regard to the quotas. At the same time it is to be hoped that the restrictions on catches will help to preserve the Baltic fish stock at a sufficient level so that the situation in these waters will not become like that in the northwest Atlantic, where herring fishing has had to cease almost entirely for the time being because of the shortage of fish.

Now Finnish fishermen hope that the fishing rights of Soviet fishermen in the Finnish fishing zone will be revised and reduced. A 5-year agreement concerning this fishing was concluded in 1977, with a clause that the agreement is to be revised in mid-term. Soviet fishermen have been allowed to catch in the Finnish fishing zone 14 million kg of sprat and 1 million kg of Baltic herring annually. [end recording]

CSO: 5200

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

CANADIAN ARCTIC OIL PROJECT REQUESTS JAPANESE PARTICIPATION

OW111311 Tokyo KYODO in English 1252 GMT 11 Jun 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo June 11 KYODO--A Canadian oil company has sought Japanese participation in a project to develop oil resources in the Arctic Ocean by investing dollar 375 million, it was disclosed Monday. The Canadian proposal was made by Dome Petroleum Ltd to the Petroleum Association of Japan through the Japan National Oil Corporation.

Dome Petroleum has several concession areas in the Beaufort Sea in the Arctic Ocean. Oil deposits in the concession areas are believed to total 5,000 million barrels. If negotiations [are] concluded successfully, the production of oil will start around 1987, the association said. The Canadian firm will ship 68,000 barrels of oil a day to Japan at the peak production time, they said.

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BRIEFS

JOINT USSR-JAPAN SHRIMP OPERATIONS--Yuzhosakhalinsk, May 29, TASS--Joint shrimp fishing has begun in the Tatar Strait (Soviet Far East), by ships of the USSR and Japan. Under a contract, signed by Soviet organisations with the Nikonkai Esikago Gege cooperative from the town of Otaru, the Japanese have the right to catch 630 tons of shrimp. Soviet specialists, in turn, will work on Japanese boats to study the organisation of fishing and technology of processing shrimp. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0854 GMT 29 May 79 LD]

MOROCCO RECEIVES SOVIET FISHING DELEGATION--Rabat, May 24 (MAP)--Azzeddine Guessous, Morocco's commerce and industry minister received here a delegation of high-ranking officials from the Soviet Ministry of Maritime Fishing. During the meeting, the two parties proceeded to the examination of the development methods of Morocco-Soviet cooperation in the field of maritime fishing, according to the agreement signed in Moscow April 1978, and which was later adopted by the Moroccan House of Representatives, during the present session. This meeting was also devoted to the preliminary study of the report concerning the development of fisheries in Morocco, and which was recently submitted to the high appreciation of King Hassan II of Morocco, by the Soviet delegation. [Text] [Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 24 May 79 LD]

U.S. SHIP SEIZED BY VENEZUELA--Caracas, 30 May (EFE)--A boat sailing under the U.S. flag was seized by members of Venezuela's National Guard while its crew was illegally fishing in Venezuelan territorial waters. Hugo Munoz Cabrera, director of fishing promotion and development at the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, announced the seizure today. According to Munoz Cabrera, this is the first time that a U.S. boat has been captured for violating Venezuela's territorial waters. The boat, called "Apollo II," had been authorized to unload some fish in Carupano, near Puerto Santo and Puerto Sucre, in the east, but had not been authorized to fish. The "Apollo II" was fishing for tuna south of Blanquilla Island when it was caught by an Armed Forces of National Cooperation inspection boat. According to Munoz Cabrera, the boat was ordered to sail toward Pampatar, Nueva Esparta State, where its captain, Richard Fucchi, was arrested. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2249 GMT 30 May 79 PA]

JAPAN SAYS USSR FINED TRAWLERS--Tokyo, 7 Jun, (XINHUA)--Two Japanese trawlers seized by Soviet naval vessels were recently fined some 700 million yen by the Soviet Nakhodka Court, according to a YOMIURI SHIMBUN report. The Aoba Maru and Choei Maru were Hokkaido trawlers. The Aoba Maru was seized on the waters 75.6 kilometers northwest of Sabo on 11 May while the Choei Maru 93.6 kilometers offshore at the same place on 20 May. Both were fined for "fishing within the 200 nautical-mile limit on Soviet waters." The Aoba Maru was confiscated by the Soviet Union together with its fishing gear and catch. There was no news about the other trawler. [Text] [Beijing XINHUA in English 1208 GMT 7 Jun 79 OW]

USSR SEIZES JAPANESE BOAT--Tokyo, 10 Jul (KYODO)--A Japanese fishing boat with six crewmen was believed seized by a Soviet patrol boat Sunday morning off Nemuro, eastern Hokkaido, the Maritime Safety Agency reported Tuesday. The 4.8-ton Kazu Maru, belonging to the Nemuro fishing cooperative, did not return by the scheduled time after it told the cooperative by radio that Soviet officials boarded it for inspection, according to the agency. It would be the eighth Japanese fishing boat captured by the Soviet Union this year. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0309 GMT 10 Jul 79 OW]

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

SEABED BOUNDARY TALKS WITH AUSTRALIA END IN JAKARTA 25 MAY

Jakarta ANTARA in English 0807 GMT 26 May 79 BK

[Text] Jakarta, 26 May (ANTARA)--The Indonesian and Australian delegations' negotiations here on the seabed boundary between East Timor and Australia held since last Tuesday ended Friday with the two sides agreeing to recommend to their respective governments to hold further negotiations in Australia at an early date. The planned further talks will be the third round in the bilateral discussions on the issue so far, the first round having been held in Canberra last February.

During the Jakarta talks, the two sides continued examination of the various areas between the two countries involving outstanding questions for delimitation of their maritime boundaries, and submitted concrete proposals in respect of these areas.

These proposals, having been made the subject of detailed discussion and examination during the meeting, were referred for further negotiation at the next scheduled meeting in Australia.

Indonesian delegation chairman Dr Hasjim Djalal, international negotiation director of the Foreign Ministry, said the two sides had exhibited a great and sincere desire to have the talks end successfully in mutual agreement. He also noted that the seabed of the Timor area with its shallowing and special land characteristics constituted a unique world phenomenon. Geologists, he said, have offered the view that the special conditions developed from the friction and collision of the land masses of the Australian and Asian continents millions of years ago.

The Australian delegation was led by R.J. Smith of the Australian Foreign Ministry's Law Department.

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

JAPAN'S RECOGNITION OF INDONESIAN ISLANDS MAY AID ECONOMIC RELATIONS

BK111059 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0720 GMT 11 Jun 79 BK

[Text] Tokyo, 11 Jun (ANTARA)--Japan's recognition of Indonesia's Wawasan Nusantara (Archipelago concept) will strongly influence the strengthening of the future bilateral economic relations between Japan and Indonesia taking into consideration that the concept reflects Indonesia's sovereignty over the islands and natural resources. This view was expressed by coordinating minister for financial, economic and industrial affairs, Professor Widjojo Nitisastro, before newsmen in Tokyo.

Japan recognized the Wawasan Nusantara concept following official talks by President Suharto and members of his party with Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira and other ranking Japanese officials during the Indonesian leaders visit to Tokyo last week. One of the major results of the two-day talks in Tokyo was the acceptance of the Indonesian archipelago concept. The concept was thoroughly discussed during the presidential visit with the Japanese officials. The discussions were of great significance in the efforts at informing the other countries about Indonesia's frontiers and territorial limits.

By taking an example, Minister Widjojo pointed out that in the conclusion of an agreement on the prevention of double taxation it would be difficult to sign such documents if the countries concerned do not know their frontiers and territorial limits. Indonesia had earlier signed agreements on the prevention of double taxation with Britain, the Netherlands and Canada. France was expected to follow suit soon. With the recognition of the concept by Japan, Widjojo said it would mean that the door was open for a resumption of negotiations leading towards agreement on a double tax prevention accord between the two countries.

In other economic spheres the acceptance of the concept would also have a great bearing in the future, he said, taking into consideration Indonesia's rich natural resources including those under the seabed.

State Minister Sudharmono said the acceptance of the concept was a great step forward in further strengthening the relations between the two countries. He pointed to the joint press statement issued at the close of the talks between the president and the Japanese Government officials that negotiations would be resumed to deal with the fishing in the Banda Sea. Mention was also made about the sealanes for shipping in the press statement.

The recognition of the Wawasan Nusantara was accompanied with the stipulation that Indonesia would pay attention to Japanese interests. Minister Sudharmono referred in

this connection to the Lombok Straits, Makassar Straits, N. Sunday Straits and Karimata Straits which have been used as international shipping lanes because they are considered open seas. But with the recognition of the Wawasan Nusantara these straits could still be passed by international shipping but on the condition that these waters should be recognized as part of the Wawasan Nusantara. The straits, Widjojo said, were most important to Indonesia's national resilience and part and parcel of her economic, political, social, cultural and defence system.

Furthermore, there were also efforts proceeding the recognition of the concept. And this called for further measures like in the field of fishing about which negotiations could be held leading toward agreement and the techniques of fish catching by among others the conclusion of joint ventures.

Indeed, the minister said, these efforts were not easy but the recognition of the concept was necessary as it was aimed at increasing stability which ultimately would lead to national resilience and thence to regional resilience.

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

TALKS RESUMED ON AUSTRALIAN FISHING TREATY WITH JAPAN

OW110423 Tokyo KYODO in English 0408 GMT 11 Jun 79 OW

[Text] Sydney June 11 KYODO--Japan and Australia have resumed full-fledged talks in Canberra for the conclusion of a new bilateral fishery treaty after a three-month suspension, it was learned here Monday. The talks began in the Australian capital last Thursday but have so far been kept secret.

The two countries, informed sources said, have resumed the talks because the gap in their views on the amount of fishing fees to be paid by Japanese fishermen operating in Australia's proposed 200-mile fishery zone has narrowed considerably as a result of informal negotiations held between them since the collapse of official talks last March. There is now a big chance that the two countries will reach a final agreement on the new bilateral fishery treaty in the near future, the sources said.

Australia had demanded that Japan give its guarantee on the protection of its overall economic interest in the new fishery treaty, but this problem has been virtually settled because Japan has pledged to expand its beef import quota as part of the Tokyo round of multinational trade negotiations.

Thus, the sources said, the focal point of the resumed Japan-Australian fishery negotiations is the amount of fishing fees to be paid by Japanese fishermen. The two countries also have yet to reach agreement on attached notes on Japanese tuna fishing operations in the Australian waters, they added.

Meanwhile, the sources said, there is no problem about Japan's continued fishing operations in the waters off Australia because the Canberra government has no intention to establish the proposed 200-mile fishery zone until after a new fishery treaty is concluded with Japan.

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

TAIWANESE CLAM POACHING ENDANGERS GREAT BARRIER REEF

Seventh, Eighth Arrests

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 10 May 79 p 1

[Text] Thirteen Taiwanese fishermen found in two small boats on the Great Barrier Reef late on Tuesday night might have been abandoned by their mother ship, Australian Coastal Surveillance Centre officials said last night.

In another incident, the seventh Taiwanese fishing boat to be caught on the Barrier Reef was arrested in Far North Queensland waters on Tuesday.

Officials believe the 13 men who were picked up off Mackay, were sent into Australian waters to fish illegally while their mother ship anchored just outside the fishing zone.

The Mackay trawler Wailolo found the fishermen in two dories, each about 4.5 metres long, on the Swains Reef.

They took the men on board because they saw several red flares in the area and thought the men were in trouble.

Officials now think the flares were a signal from the mother ship for the fishermen to return because the Wailolo was approaching the area.

A light plane which searched the area, 193 kilometres east of Mackay, yesterday, reported sighting a large Taiwanese ship just outside the fishing zone.

State police chartered the game fishing boat Temptation and met Wailolo at sea yesterday afternoon. Wailolo did not have facilities to look after the fishermen.

The fishermen were taken on board the Temptation, which headed for Mackay.

Coastal surveillance officials said none of the fishermen could speak English.

All ships in the area have been instructed to look out for a ship in distress.

Charges

It is likely the fishermen will be charged with fishing illegally in Australian waters — if they cannot prove their mother ship sank.

The boat arrested off Far North Queensland was the Yi Mang Chai, it was arrested at 3 p.m. 370 kilometres north-northeast from Cairns.

It was not known last night how many men were on board.

The arrest was made by Commonwealth Police in the charter boat Sea Venture.

Yesterday afternoon two more officers were flown by seaplane to the Sea Venture to help escort the Yi Mang Chai to Cairns.

The boat is due at Cairns tomorrow or Saturday.

Six Taiwanese boats fishing illegally on the Reef this year have been confiscated following court appearances by their masters.

Deport cost

Australian taxpayers have spent at least \$50,000 to deport illegal Taiwanese fishermen.

But Primary Industry Department regional executive officer (Mr. Cliff Bycroft) said yesterday the expense was justified.

He said one boat had 11 tonnes of clam meat, which would have come from 50,000 clams. This destruction to the Barrier Reef would take a long time to balance, Mr. Bycroft said.

"It is not a question of cost. It is a matter of protecting the Barrier Reef. Not even Australians are allowed to fish there," Mr. Bycroft said.

"If we do not protect our waters there will be dozens of boats fishing illegally on the Reef."

Mr. Bycroft said the future of confiscated Taiwanese fishing boats was in doubt. They might be sold by the Government to help recoup costs or they might be sunk, as some would not attract high prices.



Wrecked boat was arrested ... and 13 people found.

Trade Sanctions Ruled Out

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 11 May 79 p 7

[Excerpt] Trade sanctions were ruled out yesterday by the Premier (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) as a way to stop Taiwanese fishing illegally in Australian waters.

The suggestion was made by the State Opposition Leader (Mr. Casey) who said sanctions would "hit where it hurts" and Taiwan authorities would step in.

The Taiwan Government would be forced to order the captains of its fishing vessels to stay outside Australian waters.

But Mr. Bjelke-Petersen said sanctions were a "pretty drastic step."

"The Taiwanese are friendly people on our side of politics in the free world," he said.

"I admire them for the way they have stood against Communism."

The only way to stop Taiwanese poaching was for the Federal Government to increase surveillance, the Premier said. He would raise this with the Prime Minister (Mr. Fraser).

"People were concerned about health risks posed by the entry of people from Taiwanese and other boats into Australia and the costs to the Australian taxpayer of repatriating them," he said.

It was a matter for the courts to decide whether penalties imposed on illegal fishermen should be increased.

Seamen To Be Returned

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 12 May 79 p 5

[Text] Thirteen Taiwanese fishermen found on the Barrier Reef this week are officially classed as "seamen adrift" and would be flown to Taiwan next week, an Immigration Department spokesman said yesterday.

The men would not be charged with fishing illegally in Australian waters, the spokesman said.

The Taiwanese were found on Swain's Reef, 183 kilometres east of Mackay on Tuesday night. They were in two 4.5 metre dories and were picked up by an Australian trawler.

After arriving in Mackay at 11.45 p.m. on Thursday, the men were questioned through an interpreter.

They told fisheries officers their two dories were fishing outside Australian waters when one dory broke down.

They said the second dory stayed nearby, waiting for their mother ship, the In Kai No. 2 to pick them up. However, the dories drifted towards Swain's Reef and Australian waters, the men said.

Signal

They told officials that red flares sighted near Swain's Reef on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights were a signal from their mother ship.

The Immigration Department spokesman said the men were officially classed as seamen adrift and Australia was obliged to look after them.

The fishermen stayed at the Whiteunday Hotel, Mackay, before being flown to Brisbane at 9 a.m. yesterday.

The Immigration Department spokesman said none of the men had official papers so it would be several days before they would be flown to Taiwan.

The men are staying at the Wacol Migrant Centre.

Skipper Jailed, Crew Fined

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 16 May 79 p 2

[Text]

BRISBANE. — The master of a Taiwanese fishing vessel was jailed for six months and 15 crewmen were fined a total of \$20,400 in Cairns Magistrates Court yesterday on clam poaching charges.

The captain is believed to be the first master of a foreign ship to be sentenced to jail in Australia for poaching.

The vessel, the Yi Man Tsai, and its equipment and catch were forfeited to the Crown.

The master, Hong Chih Hua, 26, was jailed for six months with hard labour on two charges of breaching the Australian Continental Shelf Act by searching for and taking giant clams on May 8.

Mr B. J. Scanlan, SM, fined the 15 crewmen aboard the vessel a total of \$20,400, plus costs, on similar charges.

Imposing the sentences, Mr

Scanlan said someone had to start somewhere as previous penalties had obviously not been adequate deterrents.

He found it hard to determine who was responsible for directing the boats. The only person he could hold responsible while the vessel was at sea was the master.

The Commonwealth Crown Prosecutor, Mr Ian Bates, told the court that, when boarded, the boat had contained 4,203 kilograms of clam meat in various stages of freezing. This was equivalent to 25,000-30,000 giant clams and was worth \$10-\$15 a kilogram in Taiwan.

He said the Federal Government was concerned at the effect of poaching on the reef.

It was now the only part of the world where full-sized giant clams could be found in large numbers.

Problems, Incidents Reviewed

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 10 May 79 p 7

[By Elizabeth Johnston]

[Text]

A MULTI-million dollar clam war is threatening the Great Barrier Reef.

Police and naval officers are risking their lives apprehending Taiwanese fishing boats on the run and loaded down with tens of thousands of clams.

And ecologists have warned that the reef is being damaged by the huge-scale removal of clams.

Commonwealth police flew to the reef outside Cooktown this week to arrest the eighth Taiwanese fishing vessel apprehended off Queensland this year.

She will be the 80th Taiwanese trawler apprehended in Australian waters in the past four or five years but by the time she arrives under escort in Cairns this weekend there could be another arrest under way at sea.

Three boats have been arrested in the past three weeks.

The regional executive director of the Federal Department of Primary Industry in Queensland, Mr Cliff Bycroft, said yesterday there had been a surge in arrests this year.

It is understood clam meat is worth \$15 a kg in Taiwan and Singapore. It's a bit like the TAB leaving its money out on the street — someone is certainly going to try to take it.

One boat apprehended recently was carrying 11 tonnes of clam meat worth about \$165,000.

The skipper was fined \$500 and his boat was confiscated. It will cost Australian taxpayers about \$14,000 to deport the 19 crew members.

But for Australians the loss is not only financial. That 11 tonnes represented 50,000 clams.

That is half a hectare of the reef. Mr Bycroft said the cost of apprehending these people is miniscule compared with the damage being done to the reef.

Under the Continental Shelf Act the taking of shellfish is forbidden completely on the reef.

The taking of swimming variety of sea life is restricted to the 12 mile limit but the shellfish ban does not stop there.

Instead it covers the reef for as far as it extends.

The reef is policed by the Commonwealth Surveillance Centre in Canberra which charts aircraft to watch for poachers, and game fishing vessels to chase them.

When a poacher is sighted Commonwealth police are

flown to the chartered vessels and it is their job to make the arrests.

More and more frequently armed police have to risk their lives leaping from one moving craft to another as the Taiwanese try to escape.

But the hazards of the chase and the huge loss of clams are not the only dangers in the clam war.

Last week an attempt was made by the crew of the Hai Weng Sheng, carrying 11 tonnes of clam meat, to scuttle the ship as the navy patrol boat Bayonet closed in.

A boarding party closed sea cocks before any volume of water entered the vessel.

But the week before, the Hui Ju Hod sank while being escorted to Cairns. She sank at Ruby Reef about 60km south-east of Cooktown and the 100,000 litres of fuel on board posed a grave pollution threat which was averted only by flying a team of salvage experts to the reef.

A departmental inquiry did not establish whether the Hui Ju Hod was scuttled. The engines were overheated

and a waterpipe could have burst. Only the Taiwanese skipper knows how much clam meat was on board.

He faced a fine of between \$500 and \$3000, and a jail sentence if his company refused to pay the fine.

Magistrates usually allow between 14 and 28 days to pay fines and after that the skipper goes to jail. Until then he is kept at the Warol Migrant Centre in Brisbane.

A skipper is serving time in Brisbane Jail this week and last year another served one month waiting for his fine money to arrive.

A Cairns magistrate recently imposed total fines of \$7500 on a skipper and 11 crewmen caught taking clam shells.

"Because of the size of the fine we didn't think it would be paid, but now it looks like coming through this week," Mr Bycroft said.

The department tries to fly crew members home to Taiwan as quickly as possible but the problem of the impounded boats is not so easily solved.

Brisbane Newspaper Comments

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 11 May 79 p 4

[Editorial: "Get Tough on Poachers"]

[Text]

WHILE protection of the Great Barrier Reef from oil drilling is important there is a much more urgent need to protect it from the immediate threat of Taiwanese clam poachers.

The damage they are doing to the reef is immense. According to a Primary Industry Department official one captured boat had meat from 50,000 clams.

Despite the increased surveillance of the reef, the imposition of fines on the captains and the confiscation of fishing boats caught in Australian waters, the illegal fishermen keep coming. Clearly the penalties are insufficient. The fine of \$500 recently imposed by a northern magistrate on a fishing boat master for illegal clamming is unlikely to prove a deterrent to others.

The ineffectiveness of existing penalties is shown by the fact that one Taiwanese captain has been caught a second time operating illegally in Australian waters.

The Federal Primary Industry Minister (Mr. Sinclair) hopes to frighten the Taiwanese away by threatening to limit Taiwan's access to Australia's planned 200-nautical mile fishing zone. It is doubtful that he will succeed.

As the Taiwanese already fish fairly successfully, though illegally, in Australian waters they probably will continue to fish illegally if access to the fishing zone is denied them.

The Government possibly could consider some form of trade sanctions against Taiwan. It could legislate to impose jail terms, with hard labor, on poachers. It could insist that the Taiwanese Government, and not Australian taxpayers, meet the cost of returning captured crews to Taiwan.

As the Federal Labor Member for Griffith (Mr. Humphreys) said recently, the time has come to get tough. Australia cannot continue tolerating the wrecking of the reef by the Taiwanese.

TAIWANESE FISHING VESSEL ARRESTED BY AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES

Fisherman Lost Overboard

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 5 May 79 p 7

[Text] A search was resuming off Cape York at first light today for a Taiwanese fisherman lost overboard from the arrested fishing vessel Hai Weng Sheng.

An Australian Coastal Surveillance Centre spokesman said in Canberra yesterday the man had not been seen since he was sighted by a search aircraft about 10 a.m. yesterday.

At the time he was apparently alive in the water.

Survey boats from Navy base Flinders were sent to the area but failed to find the man before darkness, the spokesman said.

A chartered search aircraft from Townsville also failed to sight the man, whose absence was noted late Thursday night.

The search area is in the Three Reefs region, about 60km east of Cape Grenville, which is about 200 km south-east of Thursday Island.

The Taiwanese vessel was arrested by the Navy patrol boat Bayonet near Raine Island late Thursday afternoon.

Sailors were reported to have prevented attempts by the Taiwanese to scuttle the 20m craft, but the spokesman said this had not been confirmed.

A boarding party was understood to have

closed sea cocks before any volume of water had entered the vessel.

More than 1000 kg of clam meat was found on board.

The boat, escorted by Bayonet is expected to arrive in Thursday Island at 4.30 p.m. tomorrow. Commonwealth Fisheries Department officers will fly from Cairns tomorrow to interview the crew.

Last week another arrested Taiwanese boat, the Hui Ju Hud sank while being escorted to Cairns. Marine authorities are investigating whether it was scuttled.

The vessel sank at Ruby Reef, about 60 km south-east of Cooktown, and created a pollution scare with about 100,000 litres of fuel on board.

A Coastal Surveillance Centre spokesman said last night sea conditions had prevented fuel being pumped off the vessel.

To minimise any likely damage to the reef the vessel would be properly sunk this morning.

Jail Terms Proposed

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 May 79 p 8

[Text]

BRISBANE. — Jail terms should be considered for Taiwanese fishermen caught poaching in Australian waters, a Federal Labor backbencher and member for Griffith, Mr Humphreys, said yesterday.

The Government should "throw the book" at the captain of the fishing vessel Hae Weng Sheng, caught last Thursday south-east of Cape York.

The boat, sunk yesterday, had caused oil pollution on Great Barrier Reef and the Australian Government paid \$15,000 to send the crew back to Taiwan.

Yet the captain was fined only \$3,000, Mr Humphreys said. That was not enough of a deterrent, as it was the man's second poaching offence in Australian waters.

CS0: 5200

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ROK-GILBERT ISLANDS FISHERY MEETING--Seoul June 19 HAPDONG-KYODO--A five-man Korean delegation will leave here for Tarawa, capital of Gilbert Islands, for a four-day fishery meeting opening next Monday. The Korean delegation will be headed by Chu Hong-chang, assistant director of the Office of Fisheries, Foreign Ministry sources said. The four-day fishery meeting will discuss, among other things, issues related to the fish catch quota for Korea in the 200-mile economic water zone established by the Government of the Gilbert Islands, joint fishery ventures and promotion of technical co-operation in the field of fisheries, the sources said. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 19 Jun 79 OW]

ROK COMPENSATES JAPANESE FISHERMEN--Seoul June 16 HAPDONG-KYODO--South Korea will pay a total of 120 million yen to compensate Japanese fishermen for fishing tackle they lost in maritime accidents involving Korean fishing fleets off the Hokkaido Island, it was announced here Saturday. The North-Pacific Fishery Promotion Association, a private cooperative of fishing companies, said that the money will be paid to the Japanese side in cash by September 11 this year in accordance with an agreement reached at the Sixth Korea-Japan Private Fishery Consultative Committee meeting held early this week. The compensation will be for the losses that incurred before April 11, 1978, and damages allegedly done to fishing tackle of Japanese fishermen will be subject to negotiation when the seven consultative committee meeting is held in Seoul in early August. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 16 Jun 79 OW]

ROK-JAPAN FISHING COMPLAINTS--Sokcho, Kangwon-do--A growing number of fishermen here are complaining of havoc wrought upon them by Japanese fishing boats while fishing in the joint fishing zone. According to fishing cooperatives here, the 42-ton Korean fishing boat Chonan-ho had its loaded fishing nets destroyed on June 16 by what could be described as rampaging acts of a 160-ton Japanese vessel, called Mido Maru. The cooperatives said because of the incident the Korean fishermen involved suffered a loss of 2.6 million worth of mackerel pike. The incident took place in an area about 110 miles from Chumunjin port, somewhere around a point at 38 degrees north latitude and 129 east longitude. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Jun 79 p 8]

INDIA, BURMA MARITIME ACCORD--The first round of talks between India and Burma for demarcation of the maritime boundary has ended in Rangoon with agreement on some major points. The common maritime boundary will be between the Andaman Islands and Burma's Coco Islands in the Andaman Sea about 500 km southwest of Rangoon. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Jul 79 BK]

TAIWANESE BOAT FORFEITED--Cairns.--The master of a Taiwanese fishing boat was fined \$500 and his boat ordered to be forfeited when he was convicted in the Thursday Island Magistrate's Court yesterday of fishing illegally in Australian waters. The vessel, Hae Wen Sheng, with a crew of 19, was apprehended about 20km from Raine, east-north-east of Cape Granville near Cape York last Thursday. It was alleged the boat was clamming illegally in Australian waters. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 8 May 79 p 15]

NEW ZEALAND ARREST--Off Auckland a Taiwanese-based trawler was arrested for alleged poaching in New Zealand waters on Tuesday night. New Zealand officials said the boat was the Ming Chang No. 7, under charter to a Fijian company. A Defence Department spokesman said yesterday a boarding party from the N.Z. Frigate Taranski found fresh fish in the boat's hold. The Ming Chang No. 7 was one of several foreign ships which an Orion reconnaissance plane spotted off North Cape on Tuesday, within New Zealand's 200-mile economic zone. A Fisheries Ministry spokesman said the captain could be charged with having fished without a licence. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 10 May 79 p 1] Auckland (AAP)--The crew of the Taiwanese fishing boat Ming Shang No. 7 were being kept aboard under wharf guard at Auckland until fisheries officers had completed their checks yesterday. The 30-metre Fiji-based vessel was arrested early this week for alleged violation of the New Zealand 200-mile economic zone by fishing without a licence. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 12 May 79 p 5]

ROK-JAPAN FISHING CONFLICT--Sapporo July 4 KYODO--Seiji Mori, director general of the Fisheries Agency made an inspection cruise off Hokkaido Wednesday amid reports of fishery damage caused by South Korean fishing boats operating nearby. Mori boarded an agency patrol ship at Wakkanai early in the morning and spent an hour watching six South Korean vessels near Teuri Island off the northwest coast of Hokkaido. He arrived at Haboro, a town on the western coast of the main island of Hokkaido, and discussed with local fishermen the damage done to Hokkaido fishermen's fishing interests Korean boats. [as printed] According to the Hokkaido prefectural government, South Korean fishing vessels had inflicted damage, totaling yen 579,690,000 on the fishing implements of Japanese fishermen in 1,609 cases by the end of May. South Korean private fishery representatives have said they were ready to pay a sum of yen 120 million in compensation for the losses suffered by Japanese fishermen. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 4 Jul 79 OW]

AUSTRALIA SEIZED TAIWANESE BOAT--Brisbane.--A Taiwanese fishing boat under escort sank yesterday at the south end of Ruby Reef, 60 km southeast of Cooktown, while under escort to Cairns. The Hui Ju Hup was taken over on Saturday about 200 km northwest of Cooktown after being spotted on Thursday, allegedly fishing for clams on the Great Barrier Reef. The cause of the sinking was not known yesterday. A number of other Taiwanese boats which were believed to have been in the Great Barrier Reef area last week evaded an extensive air and sea search. [Excerpt] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 26 Apr 79 p 1] The skipper of the Taiwanese fishing boat which sank on Wednesday off the north Queensland coast has been charged with taking clams on the Great Barrier Reef. It is understood there is no evidence that the boat was scuttled. [Excerpts] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 27 Apr 79 p 3]

CSO: 5200

AUSTRALIA

GOVERNMENT BEGINS IMPLEMENTATION OF TORRES STRAIT PACT

Melbourne THE AGE in English 30 Apr 79 p 1

[From Greg Chamberlin, who has just returned from Thursday Island--THE AGE]

[Text] Brisbane.--The Federal Government has deported five Papua New Guineans and told more than 180 others to leave the Thursday Island group.

The moves are the first to enforce the new Torres Strait border negotiated after years of talks between Australia and Papua New Guinea last November.

The Government is officially describing its attention to the sensitive far northern border as a move "to regularise" the status of Papua New Guineans who have been living there.

A Federal Government task force assessed the numbers of Papua New Guineans on the islands and decided who was to be allowed to stay.

Three officials interviewed 314 immigrants although more than 500 are said to have made their homes in Australian territory.

The Minister for Immigration, Mr. MacKellar, said 114 have met his department's "selection criteria" for residency.

But Mr. MacKellar's office is refusing to release details of the task force report.

The Queensland Government came under strong criticism from people interviewed by the task force. Residents accused the Government of having condoned trafficking in cheap labor.

In the New Guinea Parliament late last year the deputy Opposition Leader, Sir John Guise, said hundreds of his countrymen were being lured to Australia on false promises of high wages, but were being exploited.

They had no passports; many could not get home again, he said.

'Blackbirder'

A man who told me he had been called a "blackbirder" said the Queensland Government was doing "exactly the same" recruiting from Papua New Guinea.

The Queensland Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs, Mr. Charles Porter, denied the allegations vehemently.

"They are very unjust and empty charges," he said.

Mr. Porter's Department was trustee for many indigenous people — including boat owners — in their business enterprises. It did not own pearling luggers.

On October 12 last year Mr. Porter told Queensland Parliament: "I say categorically and emphatically my department does not employ and never has employed one illegal immigrant . . . my department has not been involved on any way in assisting one illegal immigrant into this country."

A copy of office records held by Mr. Porter's department included the name of a Papua New Guinean on the payroll of the department vessel, *Melbidix*, in November, 1978.

A spokesman for Mr. MacKellar said last night the task force report would not be released and the Minister would not comment on its contents.

"However, the task force carried out its investigations with the full co-operation and agreement of the Queensland Government," the spokesman said.

November

The Torres Strait treaty was finally signed last November.

Under the agreement, all inhabited islands in the Strait remain Australian territory as do uninhabited islands to which Australia has traditionally laid claim.

Other features of the treaty are a seabed resource limitation line, controls on mining and a protected zone in which PNG and Torres Strait islander fishermen are guaranteed access to traditional fishing grounds regardless of whose jurisdiction they fall in.

The agreement met strong opposition from the Queensland Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, who opposed any change to the then existing 1823 boundary which annexed the islands to Queensland.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen crusaded against any changes to the boundary and threatened legal action if he found the new agreement unacceptable.

He finally accepted the treaty after guarantees from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Peacock, on the future status of the islanders as Australian citizens.

AUSTRALIA

POSSIBLE SOVIET-WEST AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION DISCUSSED

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 23 Apr 79 p 23

[Text] The Soviet Ambassador, Mr Aleksandr V. Basov has had talks with the Premier, Sir Charles Court, on the possibility of Soviet co-operation in WA projects.

Mr Basov, in Perth as an observer at the Liberal Party council said yesterday that the topics touched on included the development of North-West Shelf gas and mining in the Pilbara.

"My impression was that he was interested and would have a word with his colleagues," Mr Basov said.

"We also broached the possibility of co-operation in fisheries matters."

He said that the USSR had been involved in intensive discussions about participation in Australian industrial development for about two years.

Mr Basov believes that Soviet experience in energy distribution and the construction of pipelines over long distances will be valuable to Western Australia.

The money made through any participation would be spent in the State, he said.

The USSR was interested in bauxite, meat and wheat from Western Australia.

It also offered participation and expertise in exploring the resources of the ocean—and under

the ocean—opened up to Australia by the extension of territorial limits.

Eight members of the Supreme Soviet would visit Australia from May 23 to 30, he said.

They would visit Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney.

"The primary purpose of the visit is to strengthen relations between the parliaments," Mr Basov said.

He expected that a delegation from the Russian Orthodox Church would visit Australia at the invitation of the Anglican Church.

Soviet interest in the Indian Ocean included its role as a source of world weather and the fact that it was part of the only warm-water passage between the eastern and western parts of the Soviet Union.

Mr Basov reaffirmed his country's support for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

"We do not want the Indian Ocean to become a new hot-bed of tension," he said.

The ambassador plans to return to Canberra to day.

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

NORTHWEST SHELF WELL--Woodside Petroleum Ltd said that the Pueblo No. 1 well drilled by the Ocean Digger on the North West Shelf was plugged and abandoned on Sunday. An earlier report said that electric logs had indicated a thin gas column at the top of the 2954m to 3003m interval. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 2 May 79 p 62]

HYDROCARBONS FIND--Zeewulf I, the first underwater oil well to be drilled on Exmouth Plateau off northwest Western Australia, has recorded the presence of hydrocarbons more than four kilometres beneath the surface. While BHP, one of the companies involved in the drilling, says the find is not of commercial significance, it is the first time that hydrocarbons have been found on the plateau. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 27 Apr 79 p 1]

OFFSHORE OIL PLANS--Thirteen wells would be drilled off the WA coast this year by Australian-built oil rigs, the Minister for Mines, Mr Mensaros, said yesterday. Two of the rigs would have work throughout the year and there would be some work for the third, he said. From information available it was not expected that the rigs would be laid up after this month. Mr Mensaros was replying in the Legislative Assembly to Mr M. Barnett (Lab, Rockingham). [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 4 May 79 p 14]

MINING, DRILLING PROHIBITED ON REEF--The prime minister, Mr Fraser, assured Parliament today that the government would not allow the Great Barrier Reef to be damaged by any drilling or mining operation. He gave what he described as a clear and categoric assurance that no activity which could damage the reef would be allowed. Mr Fraser said more information was required for the permanent preservation of the reef, and he indicated that money for research would be provided in the budget. Later, the leader of the opposition, Mr Hayden, failed in a bid to get an urgency debate on what he described as a threat to the reef. In a letter to the speaker he said that the threat was contained in a statement by the Queensland minister for mines, Mr Camm, that the state government wanted to keep faith with the oil companies in developing the reef. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 22 May 79 OW]

LAW OF SEA TALKS--There were good prospects for a successful conclusion of the UN Law of the Sea Conference, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Peacock, told Mr M. A. Burr (Lib., Tas) during Question Time yesterday. The eighth session of the conference, which ended last month, had made progress on the most complex issue--the method for exploration and exploitation of deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction. Informal negotiations on protection and preservation of the marine environment had been completed. Considerable progress had also been made on the issue of a coastal State's jurisdiction over its continental shelf. The conference will resume in New York in about two months. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 9 May 79 p 12]

OFFSHORE OIL SEARCH--The \$300 million offshore search for "big" oil off the northwest Australian coast gathers pace today with the expected spudding of the Gandara 1 well by the Canadian-Australian consortium led by the Hudson's Bay group. It will be the second well drilled on the Exmouth Plateau--regarded as Australia's last hope for finding new oil resources large enough to take up the slack of dwindling supplies from Bass Strait. Before the end of next month, the consortium led by Phillips Oil is expected to begin drilling on a site yet to be announced. [Excerpts] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 9 May 79 p 25]

WHALING BAN SOUGHT--Canberra.--Australia is to ask the International Whaling Commission to investigate the possibility of a complete ban on whaling, the Minister for Science and the Environment, Senator Webster, said yesterday. The call has been listed on the agenda for the commission's 31st annual meeting in London on July 9. Australia would also ask the commission to examine the impact of proposals for exploiting krill and other Antarctic marine resources, Senator Webster said. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 10 May 79 p 8]

CSO; 5200

RESOURCE AGENCY TO LAUNCH MANGANESE NODULE VENTURE BY 1990

Tokyo KYODO in English 0929 GMT 15 Jun 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 15 Jun, KYODO—A Japanese Government agency disclosed Friday that it plans to launch by 1990, a long-range venture for the development of manganese resources found in nodule form along deep-sea bottoms of different oceans. The Agency of Natural Resources and Energy of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said that recent international developments concerning such untapped resources, including also nickel, copper and cobalt, appear to have assured the propriety of early Japanese preparations for such venture.

The U.S. and West German governments have already commended respective preparations for similar ventures and introduced bills to back such efforts in their national parliaments, the agency noted.

The problem of who is to develop such undersea resources or how the fruits of such project should be shared still remains a tough subject for the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. The last meeting of the UN body held between last March and April proved fruitless. Most developing nations demanded that any advanced nation developing a good method of tapping such resources should turn over half of the concession established by applying the method and make known the technology to a proposed international seabed authority. They wanted to have such concessions and know-how transferred to them free of charge. They also demanded that the world's production of manganese or any other mineral resource by such method be held down to the equivalent of 60 percent of the world demand.

Most advanced nations opposed the idea of such automatic transfer of knowledge to developing nations, although they considered the turnover of the technology to an international agency might be fair or inevitable. As the agency noted, the U.S. and West German authorities, in the face of such delicate developments, have started respective moves to introduce domestic laws to justify their planned ventures to develop such resources. Both Washington and Bonn would naturally modify their actions in the event of early conclusion of an international treaty concerned. But, for the moment, they hardly expect such pact to be realized early. And at any rate, they think 3 or 4 years would be required for such pact to take effect since all

nations concerned would have to come up with matching domestic legislation.

According to the agency, Japan will follow the American and West German patterns with early introduction of a domestic law for the development venture. But before that, it plans to establish Japan's own method of tapping such resources by starting an official research and development project next year. The agency envisions a seven-year yen 20 billion project that will open the way for Japan to embark on the actual development venture by 1990 at the latest.

The agency visualizes two kinds of methods and plans to have either of them developed through joint government-industry efforts. One is a "pump-suction" process to suck up through a long stretch of piping manganese nodules together with seawater. The other is an "airlift" process making use of pressurized air in piping to quicken such suction. Pacific bottoms about 5,000 meters below are now the best known place to find such nodules. But Atlantic bottoms southwest of South Africa and the southeast Indian Ocean bottoms are also thought to be promising. The Pacific bottoms alone are believed to have at least 1,700 billion tons of such nodules, containing in net volume 400 billion tons of manganese, 16.4 billion tons of nickel, 8.8 billion tons of copper, and 5.8 billion tons of cobalt. There were reports of private-level multinational ventures to develop such Pacific resources a few years ago but they have faded out of late.

CSO: 5700

LEGISLATOR SAYS NATION TO DECLARE 200-MILE FISHING ZONE

OW081139 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 8 Jun 79 OW

[Text] Manila, June 8 (AFP)--The Philippines will declare a 200-mile (320-km) fishing zone that will be off limits to foreign vessels, a ruling party member of the Interim National Legislative Assembly said today.

National Assemblyman Arturo Tolentino told a Chinese-language newspaper in an interview published today that the unilateral declaration has been made in a presidential decree to be promulgated soon. Ambassador Tolentino, this country's chief negotiator in the Law of the Sea Conference, said the declaration was needed to protect the fishing grounds and internal waters of the Philippines from foreign vessels. He added that Filipino fishermen cannot compete with the advanced technology of foreigners who will be apprehended under the forthcoming decree and their catch confiscated.

CSO: 5200

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

FOREIGN POACHING RAMPANT--Manila, 24 Jun--Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has ordered more naval patrols and aerial reconnaissance in northern Philippine waters following reports of rampant poaching by foreign fishing vessels. Minister Enrile's directive published today came in the wake of military reports on the presence of seven foreign fishing vessels in the Cagayan, Ilocos Norte and Batanes areas, allegedly using explosives. The identity of the foreign vessels was not mentioned, but authorities in the past reported the capture of Japanese and Taiwanese boats illegally fishing in Philippine territorial waters. Military authorities in Batanes in the extreme north said the poachers had even threatened Filipino fishermen. They said they lack seaworthy vessels to go after the foreign boats. Enrile ordered intensified Navy patrols, the Air Force to double its efforts in aerial reconnaissance, and Constabulary (National Guard) troops to be beefed up in the three coastal provinces. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 26 Jun 79 p 2]

CSO: 5200

BRIEFS

NAVIGATIONAL ROUTE OFF CHEJU--Seoul, June 18 (HAPTONG)--Consultations are under way among ministries concerned on the designation of a navigational route in the sea between the nation's southwestern part and Cheju Island. The move was designed to prevent contamination in the Straits of Chenju arising from maritime accidents involving tankers and other vessels carrying pollution goods and to prevent the stranding of ships or their collisions, a source at the Foreign Ministry said today. If the designation of the navigational route was fixed, it would be referred to the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) for approval, the source said. So far there has been little traffic of tankers in the straits but there are possibilities of oil carriers from Japan and China plying through them when the Sino-Japanese trade agreement goes into effect in the future, it said. It said designation of a navigational route in the Straits of Cheju cannot be subject to an international dispute since it is within the purview of the exercise of sovereignty by a littoral state but needs an advance approval from IMCO, a United Nations specialized agency, to take effect. [Text] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0308 GMT 18 Jun 79 SK]

LONDON WHALING MEET--Seoul, July 6 (HAPTONG)--South Korea dispatched a five-man delegation today to the 31st meeting of the International Whaling Convention (IWC) slated for July 9-13 in London. The Korean delegation is headed by director Choe Ik-song of the Fishery Protection Bureau of the Office of Fisheries. At the London meeting, the Korean delegation will try to block an IWC move to restrict Korea's catch quota of minke whales, office sources said. The London-based IWC, established in 1946, has now 19 member nations including the United States, Britain and Japan, and South Korea joined the IWC as regular member on Dec. 29 last year, the sources disclosed. At present, some 13 Korean fisheries firms are operating a total of 21 whaling vessels in the waters off Changsengpo, South Kyongsang Province, the sources said. They caught 1,056 whales (2,733 tons) last year and exported 2.4 million dollars worth, the sources added. [Text] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0304 GMT 6 Jul 79 SK]

CONSENSUS FOR LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE ADVOCATED

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 25 May 79 p 7 AU

[Article by Janusz Symonides: "Third Conference on Law of the Sea--Toward Joint Exploitation"]

[Summary] The first part of the seventh session of the Third Conference on Law of the Sea ended on 27 April, and public opinion is still wondering why it takes so long to draw up a Law of the Sea convention. The point is that the conference has to deal with a very extensive agenda, including the task of regulating the legal status of various maritime areas and of setting up an international organization for the exploitation of maritime resources.

"Despite undoubted difficulties, the conference negotiations are proceeding toward completion, and the first part of the seventh session made a crucial step forward in this direction. This optimistic evaluation is justified by the fact that, as a result of intensive negotiations carried out in the individual negotiation groups, the groups of interests, the regional groups and the three main committees, the so-called 'informal integrated negotiation text' has been revised; that is, the modifications introduced into it may gain the consensus of all participating states, which means that they will accept them."

The best progress was achieved by the third committee, in which only negotiations on scientific research into the maritime environment will be continued. With regard to the disputed issues tackled by the second committee it was possible to make progress in that developed inland states and maritime states with an unfavorable access to the sea will be able to partake in the surpluses of the living sea resources that a maritime state is unable to fish in its own economic zone. Poland is a state that could profit by this. Some progress was also achieved on the outer limits of the continental shelf, but the only solution to this issue can be a compromise solution on the basis of the Soviet proposal.

As for the exploitation of the sea bed outside any state jurisdiction, we should note the general acceptance of the parallel system of

exploitation, that is simultaneous exploitation by individual states and by the future sea bed organization [organizacja dna morskiego].

The Geneva session also raised the issue of one-sided exploitation of the sea bed outside national jurisdiction. In this connection a group of developing countries and socialist countries decidedly condemned the legal measures initiated by the United States to this effect. "In a special document (A/Conf. 62/77) the Group of 77 stressed that the declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly had recognized the sea bed as the common heritage of mankind and that this is now a valid principle of international law."

The Third Conference on Law of the Sea will resume its work in New York on 16 July and, given political goodwill, it may achieve further progress. "One of the more difficult problems will certainly be the act of formalizing the revised informal integrated negotiation text. The adoption of this text in keeping with the present principles of voting and of submitting modifications poses the danger of the further prolongation of work, let alone the danger of violating the agreed accord. This is why the formalization of the convention through a consensus would be the best solution. Perhaps this question will also be resolved in New York."

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

PERUVIAN PATROL BOAT VIOLATES ECUADOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS

Captain Killed

Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 May 79 PA

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador--A Peruvian patrol boat has entered our country's territorial waters and fired on an Ecuadorean-flag fishing boat owned by the Capricornio Company, killing shipmaster Enrique (Quinte) Ramirez and seriously wounding a crewman. (Quinte) had been captured by another Peruvian boat in December while in Ecuadorean territorial waters. His entire catch was seized at that time. In addition, the Capricornio Company was fined 100,000 sucres by the Peruvian authorities.

These events are among a number of abuses committed by the Peruvian navy. These cases have been broadly reported by the Ecuadorean press because the safety of Ecuadorean boats and crews has been jeopardized as they have been indiscriminately fired upon by Peruvian boats in violation of our country's maritime sovereignty.

Peru Explains Incident

Paris AFP in Spanish 0314 GMT 31 May 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 30 May (AFP)--The Peruvian Navy Ministry said today that the incident last Thursday involving an Ecuadorean fishing vessel occurred in Peruvian waters. The official communique was in reply to statements in Ecuadorean publications which said that the incident, in which one crew member was killed, had occurred in Ecuadorean waters.

The Navy Ministry said that at nightfall on 24 May, the patrol ship "Rio Zarumil" observed a ship acting suspiciously 1.5 miles off the coast and 6 miles south of the parallel which constitutes the maritime border between Peru and Ecuador.

It said that frequent incidents of contraband and narcotics smuggling occur in this area. It added that when the fishing vessel was ordered to stop, it tried to flee. Rifle shots were fired into the air to make it stop.

When the ship was boarded, it was discovered that it was the Ecuadorean fishing vessel "Captain Yagual I" and that one of the crewmembers had been shot. The captain of the Peruvian ship offered to transfer the wounded crewmember to Caleta Cruz, in Peru, because it was close, but the crew of the boat declined the offer and the fishing vessel was allowed to continue on its way, the communique concluded.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

VENEZUELA WARNS TRINIDAD FISHERMEN ON VIOLATIONS

FL141620 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jun 79 p 1 FL

[Ed Wynn Brant report]

[Excerpt] Trinidad and Tobago fishermen trawling on the shrimping grounds in Venezuela's waters have been warned that the maximum penalty will be imposed on them if they continued to defy the republic's fishing regulations. And from today the Venezuelan Government will be stepping up its air and marine patrol over the Columbus channel, a nine-mile wide strip of water separating the two countries, to nab Cedros fishermen who trawl the Orinoco basin. This is the latest twist in the 45-year-old Gulf of Paria fishing row between Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago and came almost a year after the two countries signed a fishing pact allowing local fishermen to continue their historic fishing rights of shrimping in Venezuela's waters unmolested.

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BRIEFS

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO-VENEZUELA FISHING CONFLICT--Puerto Espana, 11 Jun (AFP)--Venezuelan authorities warned fishermen from Trinidad y Tobago that they will apply the full weight of the law if the fishermen continue to disobey Venezuelan fishing ordinances. A 22-person delegation from Trinidad which carried on discussions with Venezuelan officials last weekend, said that the Venezuelan Government is not interested in applying the fishing treaty which the two countries signed 1 year ago. The delegation traveled to Venezuela in an attempt to secure the return of 16 out of 19 fishing boats which were seized by the Tucupita authorities 2 weeks ago. The head of the delegation said that National Guard representatives pointed out to them that fishing is not permitted within a 2 and 1/2 mile limit of the Venezuelan coast. The delegation also said that the National Guard declared it was acting in the name of the Ministry of Agricultural Lands and Fishing [sic] in order to protect the national resources of the nation. The Trinidadians asked that the fine of 2,000 bolivares per boat, which the Venezuelan authorities have arrived at, be cancelled. However, the Venezuelans refused, saying that it was a symbolic fine since generally a fine of 10,000 bolivares is given to fishermen for this infraction. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 12 Jun 79 p 6]

BRAZIL-URUGUAY CONFLICT--Two boats flying the Brazilian flag which were illegally extracting sand in Uruguayan territory were captured yesterday by personnel of the National Prefecture of Rio Branco. The boats, which are named "Lobo del Mar I" and "Victorga" and carried two adults and two juveniles on board, were operating in the Rio Yagaron opposite Rio Branco. The sand was being transported to Brazil illegally in violation of laws on the subject of sand extraction and customs. The press communique issued yesterday by the Department of Public Relations of the National Naval Prefecture did not supply the names of the crew members of the boats. It was learned that the details of the case were brought to the attention of the Rio Branco Justice of the Peace and the Consul of the Federative Republic of Brazil. It was determined that those responsible for the crime had completed 10 trips up to the time of their arrest. The Prefect of Rio Branco asked the court of jurisdiction to confiscate the two boats in the name of the National Naval Prefecture. [Text] [Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 10 May 79 p 7] 8143

NAVY REVERSES DECISION ON 100-KM LIMIT FOR FISHERMEN

Jerusalem JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jun 79 p 8 TA

[By Ya'akov Friedler, Jerusalem POST reporter]

[Text] Haifa--The Israeli Navy has rescinded its order binding the country's trawler fleet to observe a 100 km limit off the Sinai coast, the POST learned yesterday.

The order was issued on May 25, when Al-'Arish was returned to the Egyptians.

It aroused much anger among the fishermen, who considered the navy as being "more Catholic than the Pope" by forcing them to observe much more than the international 12-mile territorial waters limit.

Fishermen's union secretary Itamar Katz told the POST last night that some of the 20 boats had already returned to the fishing grounds to try their luck at the greater depths of about 100 fathoms (180 meters) beyond the territorial limits.

They would be unable to catch any of the lucrative shrimps at that depth, he said. "But if the catches will just cover the cost of running the boats, it'll be better than keeping them idle throughout the summer. It costs over IL6,000 a day for each boat," he added.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Ministry has promised the fishermen to tide them over the interim period, until the future of the fleet would be determined. In the expectation that the promise will be made good and in view of the navy's rescinding of the 100 km limit, the trawlermen have suspended their plans for sailing into the area as an "unarmed armada" to demonstrate for their claims.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

EEC DELEGATION TO SURVEY GABON, GULF OF GUINEA FISHING RESOURCES

Libreville L'UNION in French 24 Apr 79 pp 1, 5

[Article by Ogandaga d'Ekarapango]

[Excerpts] A delegation of four experts from the EEC [European Economic Community] commission, headed by Mr Jean Pressolle, coordinator of studies and information problems for the Central Company for Territorial Equipment, has been in Libreville since last Wednesday.

It is important to note that the principal purpose of this delegation in Gabon is to conduct an in-depth study that will enable evaluation of Gabon's fishing resources; then to inventory existing installations in Gabon and fishing resources in the Gulf of Guinea, a zone shared by Gabon; and finally to project the future potential for systematic exploitation of industrialized fishing products in the domestic and European markets.

The delegation of EEC experts will at the same time draw up a legal study to enable the Gulf countries to reach agreement on shared exploitation of existing fishing zones. And finally, on a regional level, these experts will study projects that can be realized jointly among the different countries interested in this large scale operation, especially Gabon, Cameroon, the Congo, and Sao Tome and Principe.

After our country, the five experts of the EEC delegation will go to Sao Tome and Principe, and to the Congo, the next laps of their mission. Upon completion of this important study throughout the Gulf of Guinea, a general meeting will be organized in the capital of one of the four above-mentioned countries.

According to the delegation of EEC experts, our country, which already fulfills the role of coordinator of the activities of the EEC Commission for Fishing in Africa, has a very good chance of hosting this important meeting.

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MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

SHRIMP CATCH--Beira--Despite the fact that part of its fleet is not operating because of a lack of resources, the EMDPESCA delegation in this city had caught 1,000 tons of shrimp by 31 May of this year.
[Excerpt] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 22 Jun 79 p 6]

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USSR

BRIEFS

PACIFIC OCEAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS--Yesterday a public meeting in Khabarovsk discussed preparations for the 14th Pacific Ocean Scientific Congress. Panchenko, first deputy chairman of the Khabarovsk Gorispolkom, gave a report. The congress will be held in Khabarovsk from 20 August through 5 September this year to discuss the use of the Pacific Ocean's natural resources for the benefit of mankind. All earlier congresses have been held in capitalist countries and this is the first congress to be held in a socialist country. More than 2,000 scientists and guests from 58 countries will participate in the congress to be held in Khabarovsk; many of them will visit the Soviet Union for the first time. [Khabarovsk Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 24 May 79 OW]

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JAN MAYEN FISHING ZONE PROBLEM REVIEWED

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 25 May 79 p 4 LD

[Morten Fyhn report: "Icelandic Pressure on Norway Over Jan Mayen"]

[Text] Iceland has now demanded that Norway introduce an early system for regulating fishing off Jan Mayen Island before the question of a Norwegian economic zone around the island is decided. Presumably the Icelanders would react negatively if Norway fails to act over the Norwegian fishermen. Norway, on the other hand, maintains that effective regulation can only be achieved by establishing a 200-mile zone.

The Icelandic Government has still not adopted a stance on Norwegian plans for a Jan Mayen zone. There are strong conflicting opinions in Iceland on the question, which could precipitate a government crisis. However, Iceland also expects the Norwegian Government to regulate fishing outside the zone, which the government is reluctant to do since this would further impose on its already strained relations with the fishery organizations.

Because of the desire to maintain good relations with Iceland, there is no question of establishing an economic zone around Jan Mayen without having achieved a clear understanding with the Icelandic Government. Thus, the government is steering a collision course toward both Iceland and the Norwegian fishermen.

The Norwegian fishery delegation which was in Reykjavik earlier in the week to discuss the question of resources with the Icelandic fishery authorities failed to reach agreement with the Icelanders on the problems surrounding Jan Mayen. Evidently it will be difficult to arrive at a solution until the Icelandic Government has decided on its viewpoint. It has been agreed to hold another meeting in Oslo 11 and 12 June. If the Icelandic Government has still not made a decision by then there is a risk that that round of talks will also be unproductive.

Norway and Iceland both agree on the need for a system of regulation off Jan Mayen, but they are far apart on the question of how the total quota should be established and allocated. It became clear during the Reykjavik talks, which ended on Wednesday, that Iceland cannot accept a 50-percent reduction in the capelin quota, which would bring it down to 600,000 tons. Deputy Director Kjell Reasok of the Fishery Ministry told AFTENPOSTEN that no real negotiations took place on quota allocations. The two countries believe that there is still not a good enough basis for estimating how often the capelin visit the Jan Mayen area.

The talks in Iceland took place against the background of a report drawn up by marine researchers from the two countries, recommending that the total quota be reduced by half. Of the 1.2 million tons of capelin caught last year, the Icelanders caught about 1 million tons. In view of the difficult situation within the fishery industry, Iceland will have great problems in approving a 50-percent reduction in the total quota.

If Norway commences unregulated fishing off Jan Mayen from next season the Icelanders will probably react strongly. If the Norwegian fishery authorities impose restrictions on fishermen without establishing a zone, such as the fishermen demand, the government will have problems with the coastal population.

One Icelandic countermeasure could be to begin exercising its authority in its own 200-mile zone up to the center line with Jan Mayen. Hitherto Iceland has not done this. The Norwegian authorities, for their part, have powers to regulate the Norwegian fishermen's activity in international waters.

Foreign Minister Knut Frydenlund has discussed the Jan Mayen zone on two occasions with his Icelandic counterpart, Benedikt Grondal, and Ambassador Jens Evensen has also discussed the question with the Icelandic authorities. There is a clear need for more meetings, although the main problem is the difficult domestic political situation in Iceland. The Norwegian Government will not do anything to create domestic political problems for the Icelandic Government.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

HELSINKI BANS TRAWL FISHING--Trawl fishing will be banned in some coastal areas of the northern part of the Gulf of Bothnia until the end of next year. The decision to end such fishing, taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, applies to a slightly larger area than that covered by last year's decision. The ban is due to a considerable reduction in the whitefish stock because large amounts of young whitefish have been caught with Baltic herring. Trawling for Baltic herring will, however, be permitted in the area from the beginning of June until the end of December, with the exception of areas of a 5-kilometer radius at the estuaries of the Rivers Siikajoki, Pyhaejoki, Kalajoki and Lestijoki. The ban applies to two areas in the northern part of the Gulf of Bothnia. [Excerpts] [Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1400 GMT 23 May 79 LD]

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ITALY

BRIEFS

INA OIL DISCOVERY--It has been learned from Industrial Petroleum [INA] that the drilling equipment of its (Panon) research platform has struck oil on the seabed between Umag and Venice. INA and Italian AGIP crews are working jointly on (Panon). Drilling operations are continuing to determine the quantity and quality of the oil discovery. [Text] [Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0400 GMT 6 Jun 79 LD]

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